Extension of Transport Bus Service.

341. * **MR. P. S. MUHAMED**: Will the Government be pleased to state the policy of Government in extending the State Transport Bus Service in different parts of Travancore?

MR. E. G. SALTER (*Director of Transport*): The policy of Government is to extend the bus service of the Transport Department over all trunk roads and main feeder lines for the convenience of the public.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED: ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനംകൊണ്ടു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് സൗകര്യത്തിനു പകരം അസൗകര്യം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നുവെന്ന് മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Sir, I understand that the honourable member alleges that there is more inconvenience in the Transport Department than that which existed before the introduction of the State Transport Buses. May I ask the member whether it is an expression of his personal opinion or an opinion of the general public of his constituency?

PRESIDENT: The honourable member is entitled to say that his opinion is that the incovenience is not more.

MR. E. G. SALTER: Sir, it is not only my opinion but it is the opinion of thousands in the State.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED: Does not the general public in Travancore feel that the present service is more inconvenient than under the private management?

MR. E. G. SALTER: That is a matter of opinion and which is not endorsed by the opinions expressed by the numerous communications received in my office.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ അപാകതനിയമായ ഭരണനയംകൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്ന ലൈനിൽ തന്നെ ലാഭമില്ലാതിരിക്കെ പുതിയ ലൈൻ ഇറക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവൺമെന്റിനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ച ചേതോവികാരം എന്താണെന്നു ദയവായി പ്രസ്താവിക്കുമോ?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Is it necessary for me to answer that question, Sir?

PRESIDENT: He can decline to answer that question.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: പ്രൈവറ്റ് ബസ്സുകൾ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതിനെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൂടുതൽ സൗകര്യം ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ബസ്സുകളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാവുകയും, വളരെ ക്രമമായി സർവീസ് നടക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Obviously I shall say yes, and it is an opinion which is supported by a very large number of people.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether repeated representations have not been made on the floor of this House to extend the transport service to different parts of the State?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Yes, Sir, not only representations but also unanimous decisions in both Houses of the Legislature.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഇവിടെ റസല്യൂഷൻസ് ബാലട്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽതന്നെ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് സർവീസ് നീട്ടണമെന്ന പ്രമേയം ബാലട്ടിൽ കിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതായി മെംബർക്കറിയാമോ?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Yes, Sir. That is what I have said—unanimous resolutions in both Houses of the Legislature.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: കോട്ടയം-ആലുവാ ലൈൻ നടപ്പാക്കുന്ന കാര്യം ആലോചനക്കെടുക്കുമോ?.

MR. E. G. SALTER: Investigation into the traffic potentialities to the north of Kottayam are receiving the necessary attention in my office.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalai*): May I know whether over-loading is allowed in the Transport Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Seven passengers in the big buses and five passengers in the small buses are allowed to be taken in excess of the seating capacity of the buses.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: ഓരോ ബസ്സിലും ഇരിക്കേണ്ട പേർ ഇത്രയെന്നും നിൽക്കേണ്ട പേർ ഇത്രയുമെന്നും മെംബർ വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The extra carrying capacity is not the same in all buses.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): ഇപ്പോൾ എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ലൈൻകൊണ്ട് ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന് നഷ്ടമാണെന്നതോ നടന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയും കൂടുതൽ ലൈൻ ഏറെറടുക്കുന്നതു നഷ്ടമല്ലേ?

MR. E. G. SALTER: I challenge the statement that it is a loss.

PRESIDENT: Before honourable members make assertions like this which are likely to arouse serious doubts in the minds of the public as to the conduct of a particular department, they should make themselves sure of the facts. When people talk of the loss of a particular department, I suppose, people realise that there is a certain depreciation fund, a deduction for interest and a certain extra margin of profits. If these points are considered, it will be seen that the Transport system is not working at a loss but at a profit. I know that persons who are likely to be thrown out of employment by the extension of service are doing their utmost to create doubt and distrust. I have been reliably informed that these persons are out to see that obstruction is placed on further extension of service and it is to their advantage to show that the department is running at a loss. But at the same time I am fully

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aware that there are many points in which improvement is necessary. If any specific suggestion with regard to overcrowding or any such thing is brought to the notice of Government, it will be seriously considered and any amount of criticism on such lines will be quite welcome and appreciated. But vague questions of this nature arousing doubts as to the entire conduct of a department are not expedient.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: May I know whether he has taken steps to remove the inconveniences pointed out during the last Budget Session?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Will the honourable member specify the particular inconvenience to which he refers?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Number one is the presence of a cloud of dust in the buses.

MR. E. G SALTER: The honourable member will be aware that any object which is moving over the surface of the dust-laden roads must necessarily cause a cloud of dust.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: The complaint here was not that the dust was produced in the roads but that dust was allowed to get into the bus which was not the case with the old buses.

MR. E. G. SALTER: I challenge the statement that that was not the case with the old buses.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: Sir, I rise to a point of order. സർ, എന്തെങ്കിലും ചോദ്യം ചോദിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനനുസരിച്ചു പറയേണ്ടതിനു പകരം മെമ്പർ "I challenge" എന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയാണോ?

PRESIDENT: The words "I challenge" means that the answer is in the negative and it is in that way that the statement should be interpreted. Normally speaking, Heads of Departments in answering questions should say that it is either possible or not possible. They may decline to answer a question if they have not got definite information. They can answer that they have not got the materials. But I take it that the present answer implies only that the answer is in the negative. I trust that the Heads of Departments will proceed in that line.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I want one doubt to be cleared. Here there is a question of fact. I have travelled in the bus and I know that almost all the buses are full of dust. Mr. Salter might not have travelled in these buses himself. And he challenges the statement. I would request the President to travel in these Transport buses and verify for himself the truthfulness or otherwise of my statement.

PRESIDENT: I have myself travelled in the bus. These buses are of the old style. They raise dust and no doubt there is inconvenience to passengers on that account. The only question is to have the roads dustless. I am fully aware of the dust nuisance not only to the travellers in the buses but also to the pedestrians. Government are fully aware of these facts.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, on account of the limitation of the question time, I am not in a position to explain further my views.

PRESIDENT: I would advise Mr. Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. Joseph Kunju to put down what they consider as remedial measures to cure certain defects and send them either to the Department or to the Government. I can assure the honourable members that they would bestow their best attention to such representations.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, but the real difficulty is that during the general discussion we had sent such points to be considered by the Department to the Head of the Department and they have not yet been remedied.

PRESIDENT: Has the honourable member after that pointed out to the Head of the Department that these defects have not been rectified?

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: ഞാൻ പല പ്രാവശ്യം ഇതിനെ സൂചിപ്പിച്ചു ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

PRESIDENT: I am glad to learn that.

MR. E. G. SALTER: May I explain that our original buses were equipped with rear entrances? It has been found that when a moving vehicle slows down or stops, a cloud of dust enters into the vehicle through the rear entrance. Now to remedy this the new buses are provided with front entrances. But we still have fifty-six buses with rear entrances. It is the intention of the department to convert all these buses to front entrance type; then most of the troubles will be overcome. And I have received no complaints with regard to buses fitted with front entrances.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, may I point out that during the last discussion it was complained that clouds of dust entered through the narrow slits on the flooring of the bus?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Today such slits are covered by suitable materials.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether there is any arrangement made to remove the dust which enters in the bus?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Obviously.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: കുറേക്കൂടി കാര്യക്ഷമമായ വിധത്തിൽ ഭരണം നടത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൊണ്ടു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനും കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനം സിദ്ധിക്കുമെന്ന് മെമ്പർക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, that is merely a matter of opinion.

PRESIDENT: It seems that even Mr. Padiyara has given a certain amount of latitude even with regard to the Transport Buses.

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MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know whether instructions have been given to conductors of the buses plying between Trivandrum and Nagercoil that the buses should stop on the extreme left of the road?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Disciplinary action will be taken for failing to do so.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know whether buses are at present stopped outside the cemented portion of the road thereby causing clouds of dust to rise up from the road?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Honourable member may be aware that the concrete portion of the road is 14 feet wide and buses are 7 feet wide. Therefore, they must stop partly on the concreted section and partly outside in order to allow other vehicles to pass.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Then, may I take it that the dust problem is not solved even by concreting the road?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Generally speaking, vehicles are not operated on the metalled portion of the road except for the purpose of overtaking other vehicles. The dust problem cannot be solved completely when the vehicle is moving at a rate of 25 to 30 miles per hour on a dust-laden surface.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Is it not possible to make some arrangement so as to minimise the nuisance caused to the public by the raising of clouds of dust when a bus stops at a spot?

MR. E. G. SALTER: I find it very difficult to answer that question. I have already explained the position. If dust is always present on the road, an object moving on that road naturally raises dust.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know whether anything can be done in this direction?

MR. E. G. SALTER: We must make all the roads dustless. And that is for the Public Works Department to consider.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Department or the Advisory Board has considered the desirabili y of making the road between Trivandrum and Kottayam dustless?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The Transport Advisory Committee have not raised that question. It is again a matter for the Public Works Department.

PRESIDENT: I may state here that it is the policy of the Government to make all the roads dustless sooner or later. But such a proposition will not be given effect to until and unless the cement factory is started in the State. So long as we are dependent on outside for cement, it is not the intention of Government to try this experiment. Steps are being taken to start a cement factory here.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kaikulam cum Vilavankod*): May I know whether it is the intention of the Department to take over water transport also?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Pro-Vice-Chancellor*): Sir, on a point of order. Does this question arise?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The Transport Department has not neglected water transport. That will also be taken up by the Department.

PRESIDENT: Yes, as soon as money is available.

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